BAKEMONOGATARI

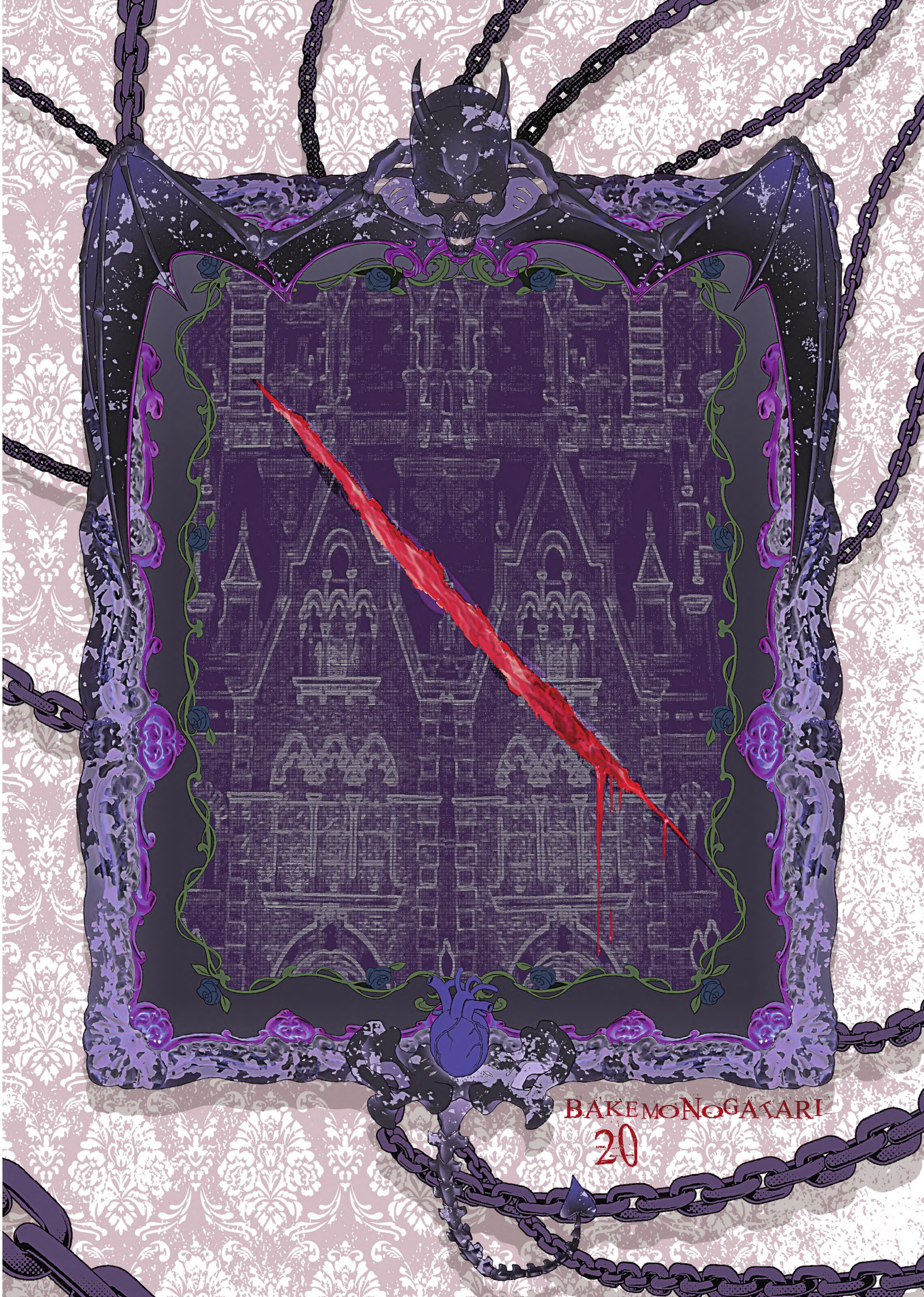
20

OH!GREAT

Original Story:
NISIOISIN

Original Character
Design: VOFAN

CAPTURE
CRR
JAW


BAKEMONOGATARI
20

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OH!GREAT

ORIGINAL STORY:

NISIOISIN

ORIGINAL CHARACTER
DESIGN: VOFAN

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MAIN CHARACTERS

Shinobu Oshino

A husk of a vampire who was once called the "king of aberrations." She had run away from home but has been found.

Koyomi Araragi

A boy and a "mockery of a vampire." He has become entangled in an issue involving Shinobu while tirelessly rushing to Hanekawa's aid.

Seishiro Shishirui

Koyomi's "elder brother" as a thrall, who holds the title of "The First Aberration Slayer." He seeks out Shinobu and sees Koyomi as a nuisance.

Suruga Kanbaru

Koyomi's junior, who once made a wish to a monkey before being saved by him. She helps Koyomi find Shinobu and eventually makes her way to her.

Tsubasa Hanekawa

Koyomi's classmate who has been bewitched by a cat. She fights her past self in order to move forward.

Black Hanekawa

The aberration known as an Afflicting Cat, or *sawarineko*, which has manifested in Hanekawa.

Mèmè Oshino

A self-described expert on aberrations. Now temporarily based out of the town of Naoetsu, he often agrees to speak with people about their problems with aberrations.

THE STORY SO FAR

The Afflicting Cat reveals itself once again. This time, it comes into contact with Koyomi, bearing one goal in mind: to become consumed by Shinobu, who had been hiding in Koyomi's shadow all along. However, the weight of Hanekawa's cumulative past is simply too much and breaks free from her, causing the plan to end in failure. What's more, Kiss-Shot's "first thrall," Seishiro Shishirui, also appears on the scene, dialing the chaos up to eleven as he seeks to take Koyomi's life and have Shinobu for himself!

Chapter 5: Tsubasa Cat

BOOK DESIGN VEIA

I...!

If you ...!

If you feel like recipro-cating his feelings,

that means you just need to live with him for the rest of eternity.

Even if an "ending" like that...

...would mean betraying my senior Araragi.

Even then.

That's right.

It means we're reaching a breaking point, Araragi.

Things you couldn't see before are starting to appear. And you know what that means, right?

Oshino

...

...said that to me.

DON'T MAKE ME KILL YOU!

HEY, ASSHOLE! WHY NO "MISTER" FOR ME?!

Hm. A promise?

Would you please— promise me one thing?

Mister Dramaturgy. Episode.

Mister Seishiro and I...

...are about to fight to the death.

I've...

...known all along.

If he wins—

I want you to transfer my status as "recognized as harmless" to him.

WAIT, CAN YOU TRANSFER THOSE TO OTHER PEOPLE?!

Gotta love it. Do you think your "recognized as harmless" is like a dick or something?

Like I said earlier...

...I owe a debt of gratitude to him.

I know why he decided to take a risk...

...and reveal himself to me.

Recognized as Harmless

Mister Seishiro told me— to break up with Kiss-Shot.

He came to tell me to switch with him.

And it...

...has to be that way.

In other words—he wants the position I'm now in... Neither vampire nor human.

A plain, harmless mockery of a human.

A mockery of a vampire. That's all.

I am her shackles. Without me...

The true and genuine king of aberrations...

...Kiss-Shot Acerola-Orion Heart-Under-Blade will return.

...the most vicious of vampires will be released once more.

The way you tore off all four of her limbs—and subjected her to the humiliation of crawling along the ground like a caterpillar to make her unsightly escape...

...what you did to her just a few months ago.

I doubt that Kiss-Shot has forgotten...

Do you really think you can beat her—with *so few people?*

Mister Seishiro ...

...will carry on my role as those shackles!

And so! If I lose and die— I need to be replaced.

...Ngh...!

FIDGET

FIDGET

.....

HUSH

FW-A5

GY-00

MK-L7

That...piece of shit!

TCH!

Ha hah —

I considered him a talented young man, but—his ability to negotiate—it's almost as if...

Sounds like the kind of outcome that'd also work well for you guys, right?

And the legendary vampire continues to be sealed away.

Another is made harmless.

One vampire ceases to exist.

As if...

...he's *that* man!

That's not what this is about.

Who will become Kiss-Shot's—

Shino-bu's...

...thrall?

That woman, with her devilish beauty and angelic fragility.

We both had an effect on her— as men.

Mister Seishiro must feel...

...the same way I do.

Heh...

Just as the short three months of hell ...

...that began with spring break will end today...

...someone needs to bring...

...Shinobu's five hundred years of hell to an end today.

But if we were to just say, "Oh sure, okay," and slink away here...

True, there's no downside for us... There's nothing but upside in what you're saying.

KEH HEH

Gotta love it.

...THAT'D MAKE US LOOK LIKE A COMPLETE BUNCHA DUMB-ASSES!

KRAKL

THWAK

It's my personal property— a souvenir I bought in Kyoto.

It's just not fair... You could at least let me set the rules.

You say you're gonna duel here, but it looks to me like the junior of you two is already dead tired.

HUH?! WHAT?! GROSS!

This is quite a lot from someone known as a love-starved child... Heh! I suppose love and friendship really can change a person...

Episode... Haha! What's gotten into you?

Heh ...

Once somebody has it, a single touch with it is all you need to win.

When I say go, you two fight over this bamboo sword.

武芸之館

A one-point match.

一本勝負

Which is why I'll kill the loser.

That way, all three of us get a nice, happy ending.

Then we'll do our job and leave.

You'll settle things here.

I don't care how ridiculously strong you two assholes are, none of you are gonna die from some bamboo, right?

KRAK

MYRMLODIA TUBEROSA

I've no objections.

What of thee, Koyomi?

GRKK

Not a problem.

GLIMMER

!!

...Huh?

CHKK

Very well, then.

If you'll allow me the liberty of firing the signal to start...

THNK

無

our

GRIIING

signal.

That was—

ズーン

ズーン

ズーン

CAUTION
VAMPIRE
ALERT
吸血鬼注意
BAKEMONOGATARI 20

It was what we were waiting for.

That was— our signal.

...answer.

Her...

THOK

It said—

fight for

this blade.

KRAKKL

BOOM

SKRRK

Win it.

And win me.

AGH ...!

!!

SLIP

STUMBLE

C'mon, you idiot! What the hell are you doing, you stupid little punk?!

A slow start.

I'm supposed to go on my date with Senjo-gahara later today.

Today is when it finally happens.

What exactly am I doing here...?

It really makes me wonder.

What exactly is the meaning of this duel?

Ever since he began living with Kiss-Shot 400 years ago.

It's been there— all this time.

I'm sure there's a meaning to this— for Mister Seishiro.

It must have always been on his mind.

For years... and years as he was stuck inside that world of ice.

Never eating a human.

BOOM

Always eating Kiss-Shot—and nobody else.

GRIND

RIP

RIP

CHOMP

CHOMP

CHOMP

CHOMP

POWK

It wasn't for his survival.

I understand what that was.

KLATTER

GSSHRK

GSSHRK

TWITCH

TWITCH

SZZZZ

...he would take that flesh and blood ...

Through his body...

...and concentrate it—into a single blade.

Because this sword—the enchanted blade Kokoro-watari—

is Kiss-Shot herself.

...does not cut Kiss-Shot.

Which is why that sword, something that should destroy any aberration with a single touch...

This is what Mister Seishiro arrived at— his answer.

He wanted Kiss-Shot— to live.

Regardless of what she may come to think of him.

Regard-less—of the shape that took.

...my second thrall.

Thou art...

Oh?

Why dost thou think so?

What was this thrall like?

Was he like me?

...the only trait thou sharest with him!

HRMPH

Thy race is about...

...

...after all.

...were alike...

Mister Seishiro and I...

Ha!

...

Ha! Hahahahaha!!
Hahaha-
hahahahahaha!

What would be the happiest outcome for her?

For Kiss-Shot.

For Shinobu.

...must not know.

No, even Shinobu herself...

I doubt Mister Seishiro does either.

I don't know the answer.

And so...

One of these duel things.

...I felt like giving it a try.

CHKK

Ha!

Ha ha!

Ha!

Hahaha!

Ha ha ha ha ha!!

Kiss-Sho-ooo-ooo-oot!

I
have
...

...been
chosen
!!!

oo

ooo

Ha ha ha ha ha ha !

oooo

I have !

Ha!

THWAP

Ha
...
Ha
ha
...
...
Huh
?
...
...!
This...
...amulet!

...I knew...

...you would do *what you just did*— and attack me while leaving yourself wide open.

That slip... was no accident. I did it on purpose.

Because if you took the sword first...

We...

...do not yield to others.

不死の習性

A habit of the immortal

Hnnh!

Why is it... here...?

Fnngh!

Haah...

Wh...Why... Hrrk... Is...!

Yuh...!

This amulet...

Hrrk!

...causing you nothing but sorrow, aren't we?

I'm sorry— Shinobu.

We really are...

See you later.

If I want to come to a proper answer,

I still need...

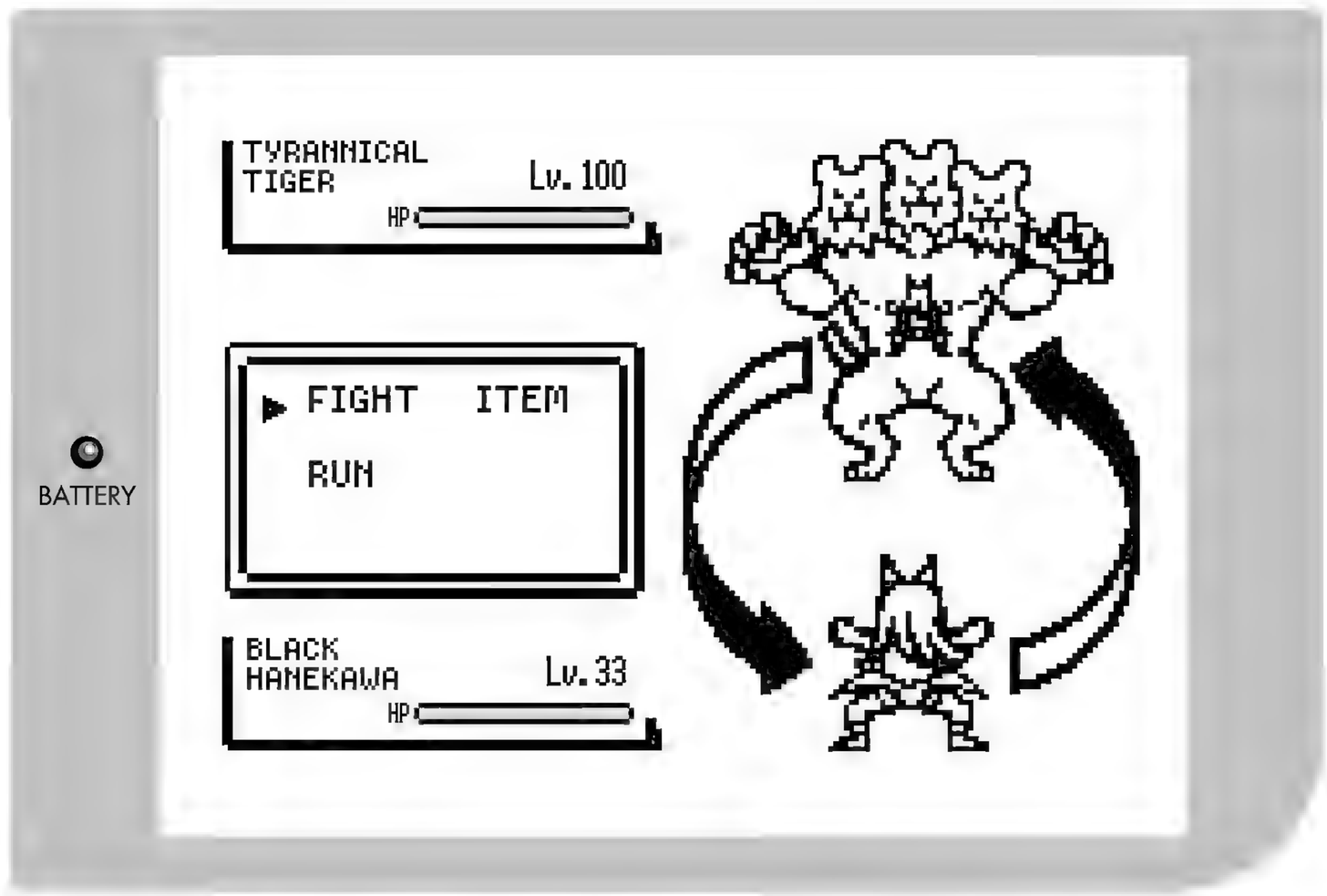
...more time.

Aagh

aaa- Hya aa

Hyiii

Haaa



BAKEMONOGATARI 20

Khhk
!
Khaak
!

Oh, it's a simple job. Just go stick an amulet on a shrine.

Could you do something for me?

Araragi.

GWOOSH

That's when Oshino—

told me.

HYAGH !

GRAKAKAK

BLURP

...gathered there, you know—

That's what he said.

There are *bad things*...

SNAP

SNAP

SNAP

ㅣㅇㅣㅣㅇㅣ..ㅣ

PTT

BWING

BWING

BWING

...

BWING

SGRAAAAAA

AAAAS

HU

That amulet?

Well...

I peeled it off...

...earlier today.

...

PRRHK

Ha hah.

GRRK

Better go and thank Missy Class President,

Araragi.

ZSSHK

CHOMP

KTT

FWOOSH

If she hadn't put out Seishiro Shishirui's eyes, he would've long seen through...

...every last thing you did.

BLUP BLUP

しぉしぉ

SNAP

しゅう

FSSHH

BZZT

...you would've been able to manage on your own.

Maybe now...

...No. ...

At long last... there's no reason for me to stay in this town anymore...

That's what the amulet was.

To cut off the *bad things* flowing into this world from *the other side*.

Originally—it was made to seal Mister Seishiro away.

...so if it was to be placed directly on his body...

It had an effect just being stuck on the door of the shrine...

...and he would *return*.

...the bad things would *burst out*...

TOUCH!!

Yeah... Never thought he'd twist the "one touch and you win" rule...

Er, that's really not what I was trying to do.

Please, that's enough.

...into winning with a single touch from that amulet!

I wasn't expecting that.

KLAAANG

KOFF

I still need to hit him with this.

Or it won't be ov...

KRAKL
110キ
KRAKL
110キ
KRAKL
110キ

When he was consumed by the Darkness along with Kiss-Shot...

...this is what was left of him.

The one *original part*— of Mister Seishiro's body.

You're amazing, you know that?

...

This left hand alone...

...for 400 years.

...the same of you, Koyomi.

No. I would say...

MIGI?!!

Even though it's a left hand!!

MIGI ?!!

Even though it's a left hand!

MIGI?!!*

Even though it's a left hand!

AAAGH!

SPLAT

ベチョ

*"Migi" means "right" in Japanese and is also the name of the parasitic alien from the *Parasyte* manga.

MIGI?!!

Even though it's a left hand!!

Permit me to offer my apologies.

I...

I am most sorry.

BOW

...had no intention whatsoever of turning thee into a vampire.

Mine one and only desire— was to save Kiss-Shot.

It was, without question, a mere coincidence that thou didst happen to pass by in that moment, Koyomi.

...but even then, annihilating her pursuers would be— simple.

The blood held within your body would only be enough to sustain her for the moment...

Then— once again...

...Kiss-Shot should have returned as though naught had occurred...

...to the dull, quotidian life she had lived for 500 years.

...

...of blood-stained hell.

500 years...

Go ahead.
Suck.

But...

...that is not what came to pass.

Not since I first turned to ash...

...and burned for 400 years had I beheld it.

I...bore witness to it.

'Twas hope.

If I were to use him well...

It may... be possible.

...from her throne as the King of Aberra-tions.

Mayhap I could pull Kiss-Shot down...

Slayer

Aberration

MHM

With a lofty spirit— too lofty.

Living all alone.

She is a noble maid.

I yearned for her to live a life less restrained.

'Twas all along— what I desired.

Just because one is *incapable of dying*—does not necessarily mean that they are *living*.

No experts could simply leave her be.

With her immense power, Kiss-Shot's mere existence draws them to her.

But the issue at hand—was what to do about the cursed aberrations.

A new... king.

One who shall shoulder all of Kiss-Shot's misery.

...is a new ruler.

What we require...

And so...you were going to make Hanekawa your new "king."

She was your sacrifice.

I chose the path that would make Kiss-Shot—

happy.

I have committed no wrong.

...was *choose*— nothing more.

What I did...

Even if I must face the rest of the world with my blade, I shall not be ashamed of myself.

猫 *gatari*

物 *mono*

TSUBASAcat 20

化 *bake*

化け猫 *bake neko*

語 *gatari*

SHHK

SHHK

SHHK

I...

...have been aware of that fair maid...

...for a number of years now.

At times, she would come to my domain.

...she is...

How strange ...

And then, once within the grounds of Kita-Shirahebi Shrine...she would simply read.

But those with wisdom. Those with drive. Those with courage—

They are every-where you look.

Those with kindness.
...ose with integrity. Those ...
...oodwill. Those with knowle...
...ose with hearts that are b...
...e still equally kind to all. Th...
...th an education. Those tha...
...ite. Those with morals. Th...
...ns deep. Those whose ac...
...lack honor. Those with ...
...nd no s... ...lesir...
...ho a... tr... ...e wh...
...ical. ...e with dis...
...th e...
...cru...
...ch... s and
...scholarship.
Those with a ...rsonality. Thos...
...without fault. Thos...
with compassion.
Those with a deep
Those with a metho...
cal approach. Tho...
who are co...
...scientio...
Those with a model
...hose with...
a logi...

...rance in th...
...tions and correct...
...t from those around...
...se with common sense...
...beautiful appearance. ...
...hout attachment. Those...
...ong will. Those with super...
...ytical abilities. Thos...
...nscend the vulgar. ...
...spect from those ...nd ...
...hem. Those with v...ue.
...hose whose word...nd ...
...ions are ever-con...
... and impres...
... a sharp m...nd. Th...
...affection. Thos...
...ch strong pow...s
...observation. T...se
...th noble aims. Those
...se thirst for knowledge
...voracious. Those who are
...est and steadfast. Tho...
...th a dislike for conflict...
...se with outstandin...
... with patience. Th...
...n maintain an...
...derstanding.
...ational mind...
model behavior.
...esche...

Those with no-where to go.

Those facing isola-tion.

...who embodies all of those qualities.

I had yet to encounter someone...

HMPH

I suppose.

Uh...

Are you really one to talk?

The hell're you actin' so proud for? Don't make me kill you.

...is that she was more miserable than any other.

But what most drew me to her...

...call forth aberrations.

Just as aberrations...

...calls forth misery.

Misery ...

To scrape it toward oneself.

One who is truly miserable will even draw in all the misery from their surroundings.

Misery

As a person—nay, even as an *aberration*.

I would bring to her every imaginable misery.

FWOOM

MISERY

CSSHT

Miserable

And so I would make her...

...all the more miserable.

...all of Kiss-Shot's misery and misfortune.

Misery

I would have her shoulder...

THMP

I was just thinking that maybe there's something I could do.

But... what's the matter? Why did you want to help out all of a sudden...?

...Really, I'm grateful. I'd take any helping hand. Even a helping paw!

...

Yeah.

Oh...

I know I'm just providing simple support, though. I don't want to get in your way.

...

Well, it's just that you're far more talented than any of my reports.

Haha!

Of course, of course! Yes, you're really helping me out here!

She made an attempt to mend her relationship with her kin.

...to try to meet him halfway, but...

I did my best...

And with a natural brilliance like hers, she had nearly accomplished her aim.

So, about the difference on the balance sheet for Kodan Provisions...

And so...

...I ruined it.

...

Those documents are important!

Don't get them dirty with that pen you've had in your mouth!

Huh?

?

Um.

?!

It wasn't in my mou...

BAM

You always got something to say, don't you?! Even when you don't understand what you're talking about!

What're you...

...

GRAKK

GRAKK

KRAKAKRAKAKRAKAKRAKA

BOOM

Hey!

What the hell is that ?!

I get to slaughter the loser!

We agreed on the rules!

?!!

KLATTER

KLATTER

KLATTER

SLIDE

I have to hit him with this...

...This duel isn't over yet.

...for it to be decided— right?

GRRRCH

GRIP

Why is it... that you want me to cut you down so badly...?

Mister Seishiro ...

Oshino was strangely defensive when it came to her parents.

No... maybe not.

Creepy, isn't it?

Even I'd hit a kid like that.

That's scarier than an aberration.

Was it because of—*something like this*?

What need was there—for you to talk about Hanekawa now?

That's something even she wouldn't have noticed.

If you'd just kept your mouth shut—nobody would have known.

Your "holy water."

And then—there's that.

...when I looked for any difference between yours and mine...

Ingestion hazard

...even my vampire eyes weren't able to tell the difference.

When I took it...

I did happen to check what I got, but...

Don't you think that's strange?

If I can't tell the difference, you can't either.

You and I are the same—both Kiss-Shot's thralls...both with the *same abilities.*

If you wanted to kill me and have Kiss-Shot for yourself... there must have been plenty of other ways to do it.

There was no need for you to appear in front of me in the first place.

No, it's even more basic than that.

You didn't do anything to eliminate the risk of you drinking the holy water by accident.

Haha ...

So why do all that?

Ha ha ha!

Ha ha ha ha

Ha ha ha ha

A fifty-fifty chance.

Those— were like lots.

That's right.

KRUMBLE

KRUMBLE

KRUMBLE

...I still had what one might consider fortune.

...to discern if per-chance...

...to grasp at straws...

I resolved ...

Ha ha ha ha ha

Ha ha Kiss Shot

Kiss Shot Kiss-Shot!

...thou didst accomplish in but nine days. In the face of a man such as he...

What I was incapable of achieving in 400 years...

Kiss-
Shot.

...my pros-
pects were for naught.

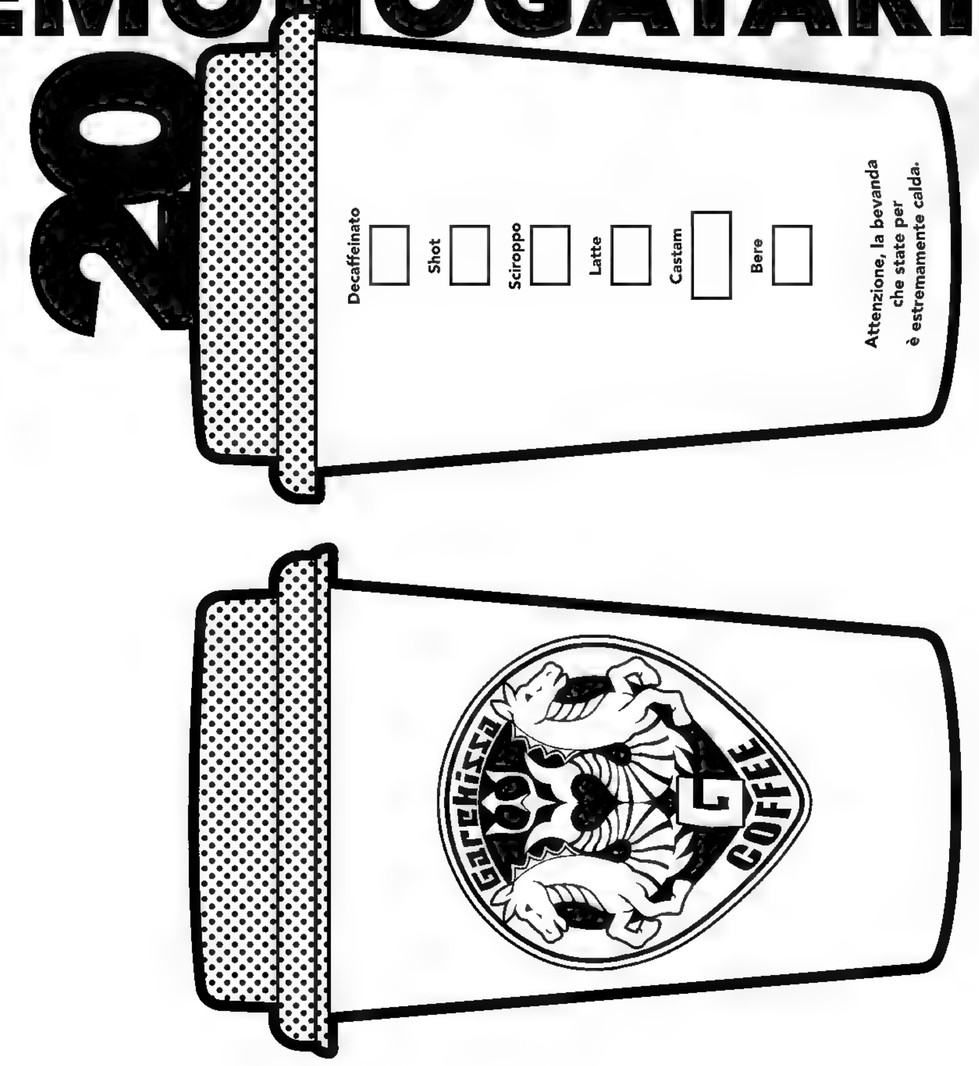
I ought to have known ...

...something that might have left you slightly impressed with me.

I do wish I could have shown you...

BAKEMONOGATARI

BAKEMONOGATARI



He wanted to know what the meaning of this fight was.

He just wanted to check for himself.

I knew it.

All from the very start.

if he could leave Shinobu— in my hands.

...if he could leave Kiss-Shot—

He wanted to see...

Mister Seishiro tested me.

CUT ME DOWN.

Make haste! Hurry, hurry! Hurry! Destroy me with that blade!

I will return— to being ashes... *I will be forced to live on as ash!*

So cut me down!

Cut me down, cut me down, cut me down!

Cut me down.

Come, cut me down!

Cut me down.

So cut me down!

I am done. I have had my fill.

I have lived for 400 years.

When was it—

that Hanekawa told me this?

It really is irresponsible...

...to be kind to everyone.

It comes with responsi-bility.

The act of showing kindness to someone.

The act of saving someone.

...he's going to spread calamity around the world again, you know...

If you don't snuff him out now...

GRIP

From the very start...

Mister Seishiro— you...

Haha-ha!

The world is better off without a single vampire in it...

... Ha-ha.

Did I not tell thee ...?

KISS-
SHOT
KISS-
SHOT
KRAKL
KRAKL
KRAKL
ALLOW
ME TO
OFFER
MY
APOLOG

There is
no need to
apologize.

sd-34

BI2

I forgave thee long ago.

In fact, 'twas I— who was in the wrong.

Forgive me, Seishiro.

—

¿!

ZSSSHH

ZSSHH

ZSSHH

Warble——

Warble.

...is this tranquil a place.

How surprising. So hell...

ZPLOOSH

ふぅ

ごくん

I hunger even in death...

I do wish I had a final glimpse of her...

...that I could have met her one last time...

KRAKL

KRAKL

KRAKL

Ah, Seishiro.

How long it has been.

ZPLOOSH

ZSSHH

ZSSHH

Agh, hot!

Heh.

Thou art as beautiful as ever... It is hard to believe I am looking at a woman at the matronly age of 500.

Ah!

DRIBBLE DRIBBLE

ドゥドゥ

TWITCH TWITCH

ton ton

To think those would be thy final words after 400 years alive...

POP KRAK KRAK

SPLASH SPLASH

Hmm?

Kiss-Shot, Kiss-Shot! 'Tis terrible, hurry!

For all this time... I've wanted to do this.

I want this— to last forever.

I love thee.

Kiss-Shot. What I am...

...is thy cursed past itself.

....

I...

I...

Sei-

...

shiro.

...is dead now.

Kiss-Shot Acerola-Orion Heart-Under-Blade...

Thou art now— “Shinobu”... art thou not?

No need.

...it seems.

...late in saying it...

I was 400 years...

Heh.

...will at least take that name.

And so I...

Sei-shiro?

SPLASH

KRUNCH

I thought we never would again.

I am glad... we could meet.

KRAKL KRUNCH

KRAKL

POP KRAK POP KRAK

MUNCH MUNCH

KRAKL KRUNCH KRAK P

I now have something more important.

But I will not meet thee again.

For the time being...

Hic!

Ah!

Waah!

Aaaah...

Aaaa-ahh...!

...I wish to be myself for his sake.

But...

...even then...

It's why he was able to live.

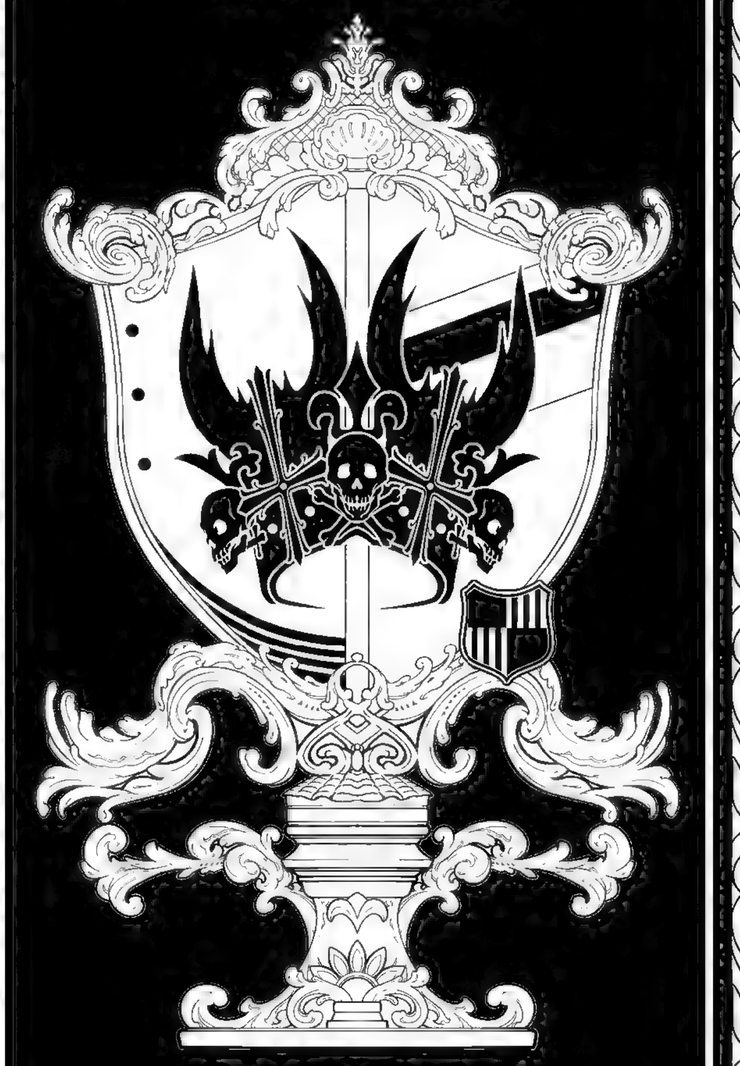
...must have been able to endure for all this time because of Kiss-Shot.

Mister Sei-shiro...

400 years later...

...he finally succeeded in his suicide.

BAKEMONO
GATARI



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BAKEMONO
GATARI

20

...Sei-
shiro's
spec-
tacular
suicide
...

...came
to an
end....

And so,
after
400
years
...

I wonder
if he died
satisfied.

Kanji L-R:
Bee / Snake / Demon / Monkey /
Snail / Cat / Crab

He died.

But still...

See you later.

I had the feeling that I—

was going to meet him again.

And by that, I don't mean that Mister Seishiro was going to return.

I fear that
I am what
I just saw.

I wonder
who will be
the one to
kill me.

I wonder
who will be
the one...

...to come
and stop
me.

In centuries,
I'll grow tired of living.

I'll grow tired
of dying.

And the time
will come
when I wish
for eternal
negation,
just like him.

But I think Mister Seishiro is the very reality that awaits me.

It's such an obvious statement that I actually couldn't under-stand it.

400 years, huh...

That's... a long time...

What a dreadful visage...

Heh.

...my master.

Hm?

...

She smiled?

"My master"?

...What's that?

I've no reason to remain stubborn now.

That is the nature of our power dynamic.

Huh?

PLOP PLOP

In truth, I am bound by thy blood and name.

OW?!!

THAT HURTS ?!

OW?! WH...

NO, THAT REALLY HURTS!

SMAK

SMAK

SMAK

THWAP

THWAP

WHAT? WHAT?!

I thought you were only into older women with three-foot-wide asses, Mister Drama...

That is nothing more than my private preference.

ARE YOU TELLING ME THERE ARE PUBLIC PREFER-ENCES, TOO?!

Oh... Okay, the—

YOU SURE KNOW A LOT ABOUT THIS!

Or possibly "hold me."

"Squat down."

In the world of *tsundere* little girls, that means ...

Young man.

What.

CHOMP

WUH...

...
Wha...!

SHLO-
UU-
URP

SHUDDER
SHUDDER
SHUDDER

WHUAAAAAHHHH!

WHISPER WHISPER

I still don't really understand vampire rules.

HEY... WHAT?!

HUH... HUH?!

Idiots ...

Y-You two...?! Here in public...?

Damn... Are you exhibitionist freaks or something...?

The two of you offset your respective strength by way of the other's blood...

...so having your blood sucked will cause your power to be restored.

Oh... Like Oshino was saying. So that's what this is.

Oh.

At this rate, thou wouldst die.

I am restoring thy stamina.

I wonder ...

...how does Shinobu feel about it?

SHHIP SHHIP

Thank you.

SHHIP SHHIP

SQUEEZE

Spring break.

SHHIP SHHIP

And that will always be the case—for hundreds of years.

Shinobu and I being together will only cause trouble for the people around us.

And I can't make anyone happy, either.

Nobody is going to be happy now.

I bound Shinobu in misery.

You know, that just sounds like an excuse to me.

The time that Senjogahara cut that side of me to pieces, just as she would.

When was it?

Just look at how miserable we are, aren't we so pitiful, don't attack us— and so on.

SORRY

That kind of thing.

Please forgive me, I'll never be happy.

Please go easy on me, I'll never be happy.

Aren't you contenting yourself with misery and misfortune and mistaking that for actually trying?

I can only say this because I was the same way for two years.

But Araragi —

...

...I have a feeling that this entire world will be destroyed.

When I— in the truest sense— make everyone miserable...

I wonder what happiness is...

...to Shinobu?

I'm fine with always being miserable.

But is that really true?

...

FWAAAAAHH♡♡♡

HOW SPLENDID!

I THANK THEE!
I THANK THEE!
I THANK THEE!
I THANK THEE!
THOU DIDST BESTOW THIS HAPPINESS UPON ME!
FORGIVE ME, SEISHIRO! 'TIS ALL THANKS TO THEE!
SHPPTT
BA-BAM
...
What-ever you wish...
I've no choice— I cannot defy you as your servant.
Hm?
What're you talking about?
Ah, yes.
Now I recall.
AHEM
Mmh...
Well.
Aye.
Wow... I feel a lot better.
Thanks, Shinobu.
コキ
KRAK

Your precious bespectacled class president is in trouble.

Give me thine orders, my mas-ter.

Hane-kawa.

I wonder ...

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100 YEN SHOP

That genius who knows every-thing.

What would she say to me?

SPLOOSH

OK

BWOOF

BOOM

...Gah ...!

FZZZZSH

GWOOM

Burn that woman, and your misery will also end.

Just five minutes. It'll be over then.

Now die there.

SBLOOP

TWITCH TWITCH

My myaster never nyew that she was miserable.

Miserable... Huh.

She nyohs!

KRAKL

KRAKL

KRAKL

But nyow...

BA-KRAK

GA-KLANG

Ngh...!

So this was your plan from the start...?! You came here— to drag me into the water, where I cannot use fire?!

KRAKKL

KREEEAK

...seems a lot more miserable to me.

But making someone she loves sad by burning up someone important to him...

KREAK

She was faced with that reality.

Getting involved with that vampire caused my myaster to find out she's miserable.

KREAK

KREEEAK

It's cowardly to nyot fight for happiness.

Staying miserable is nyothing more than laziness, anyway.

KLANK

Sword nails...

KLANG

KLINK

Off!

SBLOOP

BHAAKH
!

It's nyot like I became one of Heart-Under-Blade's firsthand thralls.

In fact.

I don't have anything nyear their unbelievable healing abilities...

I should consider my immortality as nyothing more than a little bonus...

...I wonder.

How many more times can I die...?

E-Even an aberration...

...can die if it can't breathe, huh.

HAKK! HAKK!

Do not force yourself, cat.

GSSSH

KREAK

KREEEAK

Luring me into water is but a false tactic.

All beasts are fated to fear fire.

I'm only—running away.
To somewhere safe.
To a place where
I won't be hurt.

GSSHP

Ghh!

BRR—P

Ngh ?!

Gaah !

SBPTT

SBPTT

SBPTT

SBPTT

STAB

SHKK

SHKK

SHKK

Ah—

Ahh!

GRRRCH

THWAP

KHA-!!

They're *to pin me to you!*

Did you think I used my nails to pin you to the bottom of the river?

...My blind spot!

Nyo!

GRRK

GRRK

BWOOF

Hyagh...

So unwarranted. So unproductive.

Why do something so unreasonable?

It's hot—down to my bones.

It's hot, it's hot, it's hot, it's hot, it's hot.

KRAKL

KRAKL

KRAKL

SNNNNS

It's hot.

Mrr...

Mrrow!

Aahh—

Aah!

Ah!

My vampiric healing abilities cancel it out enough that—

But!

I can handle this.

It's on!

Time to see if I turn to ashes before I finish the job!

I can take it without burning out... for about a minute.

Thirty seconds...? Nyo.

VWOOMP

Afflicting Cat Forced Energy Drain

Full Power Mode!!!

To simply burn! Burn it all away! To simply make it—so that none of it ever existed!

This is pointless! How many times must I tell you? This is what you wanted!

NYO!

My myaster withstood that jealousy— and sealed you away for a month. Those feelings— are just as true!

There's something you're ignyoring!

民倉荘 APARTMENTS

Why I...

You know that's why I...

You nyoh that's why I...

One week earlier

Oh.

Hello? Hoshina-sensei?

Koff. Koff.

My fever broke my air conditioner just now... I'm pretty sure you could pinpoint me as the cause of this year's heat wave... I can swim in my sweat right now... Yes, I really wanted to take your class, too! It's too bad!

Koff. This is Senjogahara... I seem to have caught the flu... Yes, my temperature is sitting around 107.

You know I plan on going to school.

Miss Hane-kawa...

Don't you think people are going to worry if you just waltz into school after what happened?

That is exactly what I'm talking about.

I'm all good now.

I plan on getting into college via school recommendation, but my student record should be just fine now.

BA

JUST TAKE THE DAMN DAY OFF!

IF YOU INSIST ON GOING TO SCHOOL, YOU'LL HAVE TO DEFEAT ME FIRST! KA-SHINK!

BA-BAM

HUP! AT-TEN-SHUN!

Miss Hanekawa. Could you please stand over there?

Yes... That's it.

These pajamas are a little tight, so...

Oh... Sorry.

...

BWOING

TWING

TWING

TWING

I won't go into the details.

But circum-stances have made it so I can't go back to my home.

Maybe you should get dressed.

I know we're girls, but where am I sup-posed to look?

Huh?

And you're saying that with your boobs just hanging out there?

I was taken to Miss Senjoga-hara's home just as I tried to sleep out in the street.

...

Anyway, could you do that again while wearing this one?

You don't often get to see a manga cliché like that in real life.

It's fine, I have plenty of clothes.

Oh, it's fine.

Ah... I-I'm sorry! You just loaned me these, too!

Do you have a needle and thread ...?!

コロ ROLL

コロ ROLL

Um... Can I use your shower?

I decided to change the topic before she used my breasts as a jack-in-the-box.

Then why don't we get in together and wash each other's breasts?

ピロ BEEAM

Of course you can.

...

OH, PLEASE. I'M NOT PLANNING ANYTHING UNDER-HANDED.

ARE YOU SAYING YOU DON'T TRUST YOUR FRIEND?

Hold on a lot longer than a second.

I'm getting a bad feeling about this.

THERE'S NOTHING TO BE EMBAR-RASSED ABOUT. WE'RE BOTH GIRLS.

...No, no, no. Hold on a second, Miss Senjo-gahara.

PLEASE TAKE A SHOWER WITH ME!

SHHK

SHHK

SHHK

SHHK

PLEASE, MISS HANE-KAWA!

Don't get the wrong idea. I'm not like Kanbaru.

I just want to see you in the nude. I don't intend to do anything more.

...

SHHK

SHHK

Miss Senjogahara was starting to take on some new character traits.

While in school, she continues to wear the same blank expression in front of everyone,

but I guess this means she returned to her "normal" self after starting to date Araragi...?

This is so cutting-edge...

Will anyone be able to keep up with these new character traits...?

BOOM

Ah!

She's backed me into the bath...

I'M BEG-GING YOU!

PLEASE!

DART

PLEASE!

CREEP

SCURRY

キュラララ

BWADADADADA

MM-TSK-A-MM-TSK-A

I've heard the rumors about...the Valhalla Duo...

...but this was unexpected.

Maybe Miss Kanbaru wasn't the only one instigating things...

...Well.

I guess it's fine.

It's true that we're both girls, and I'm not particularly opposed to it.

Then let's get in together, Miss Senjogahara.

Oh.

...

I know I was the one to make the offer...

...but I didn't expect you to take it.

What ...?

I'm already un-dressed ...

You know, Miss Hanekawa.

I thought you were the type of person who'd never cross lines like that.

Background text: Violation of Territory

She's right.

There is a part of me like that.

For as much as I trample straight into other people's territory...

...I hate it when they do the same to me.

...Mm.

It's from Araragi.

Looks like he's carrying out some humanitarian aid again.

PWING♪

...it ended up like this...

Which is probably why...

I think that's exactly what happened in my relationship with Araragi.

Even now—the fact that Araragi's girlfriend is right in front of me is the *only reason*...

...that I'm just barely able to hold back the urge to sprint over to Araragi, even while buck naked.

Not coming back for a while. Dot worry.

SMS

He didn't even have time to fix the spelling...

Same as always.

I'd never be able to sit there and wait like this if I was her.

I truly ...

...feel that way.

...You're really amazing.

THAT'S MY... AH!

AH... WAI...

WAIT... WAIT, WAIT!

Ah.

BATH

Okay, Miss Hane-kawa. Let's wash each other's bottoms.

I'll savor your nude figure for Araragi's sake as well.

OCCUPIED

I couldn't stand it, so I also washed her where I pleased.

Her movements were clearly those of a veteran.

She had her way with me— washing me where she pleased.

トロ SPLIP

...Hey. Miss Hane-kawa?

トロ SPLIP

That's the sense I get. ... crossed a line.

I, who always set bound-aries...

...but I feel like we crossed some line.

I'm not sure exactly how to put this...

Do you love ...

... Ara-ragi?

I do love him.

It is.

Is that so?

IS THIS MY LIFE FLASHING BEFORE MY EYES ?!

Huh? Yes, why?

HOLD ON! WHY AM I FLASHING BACK TO THIS RIGHT NOW?!

OH NO, OH NO! I'M GONNA DIE AGAIN! I DON'T EVEN KNOW IF I CAN COME BACK IF I TURN TO ASHES!

SQUEEZE

SPLOOSH

BAKEMONOGATARI

...even before spring break, I knew about—

Araragi.

If I'm being honest ...

As if he didn't notice the wall of girls who'd appear by the class-room door...

...every time he made one of his rare appear-ances at school.

About Araragi.

I don't know everything, but I did know about him.

He's famous, after all.

Even though he doesn't seem to realize it one bit.

I really did feel that way, if I'm being honest.

IT WAS LIKE— THERE HE IS!

Well, of course ...

And it seems that Miss Senjo-gahara was no different.

Of all people, why was he the one below me when I slipped on a banana peel.

That's how I felt back then.

I mean... we're talking about the Araragi, right?

Uh-huh.

Uh-huh.

But at first, fear was the only thing I felt.

So I felt prepared.

I simulated tens of thousands of battles with him before the day was out.

I don't remember a thing they taught in classes that day.

PLURP PLURP

That's ...

...quite different from the story I know.

It was a miracle that I managed to stay standing... All those rumors about the Naoetsu Lovely Gang going through my head...

You know, the story about Araragi beating all hundred of their members half to death and throwing their motorcycles into the sea...

But...

...my knees shook.

But two things are true.

NAOETSU NATIONAL DOMINATION GANG

The destruction of the Naoetsu Lovely Gang—

nobody knows how it really happened.

Araragi got in trouble with them when he was in middle school.

And one day, they suddenly stopped their activities and dis-banded.

That's all.

With all the theories floating about...

...the one thing I can say for sure is...

*The above is an illustration based on gossip.

Araragi was doing what he always does.

I imagine —

he was just saving someone in trouble.

RUMOR

His form changes as words pass from person to person, mouth to mouth.

It's really like he's some sort of demon with horns and fangs.

Well, maybe it was never that extreme...

That's right.

Now that I think about it.

In a way— it's like being a kind of aberration.

Saving people is just a normal part of his life.

直江津
It would seem that—in a way, we were victims, dragged out of the darkness.
...who saves others as he haunts Naoetsu.
We were all—*attacked* by the kind-hearted aberration...

Sign: Naoetsu

Maybe it was the moment I shoved a stapler in his mouth.

...

She did something like that...?

Oh my.

What straight teeth you have.

That kind of thing.

I guess pretty simple things can cause you...

...to fall in love with somebody.

That's how we all...

...had our hearts stolen by him.

It was just like that.

I'll hold you to that, then.

...but he attacked us without even feeding on us.

Really, what an awful aberration.

But I will someday.

He may have been attacked by a vampire...

It was during—spring break.

Well—in my case...

...I might need Araragi's consent to tell you.

Hm?

The "stage"?

So much has happened to him over these past few months. I wonder if he's at the stage where nude bodies don't even excite him anymore.

Ah, yes. That's right.

No, I wouldn't bathe with Araragi.

And he could have borne witness to this glorious sight if he was here now... what a foolish man.

Listen up, you two. Yes, my heart does start pounding just looking at a woman in a skirt.

But I don't necessarily want to see what's under it. In fact, just getting to see the way her skirt sways and flutters in the wind is more than enough.

Compared to the skirt itself, what's under it is just icing on the cake. In fact, I might even look away if I saw under a girl's skirt.

...I... don't know.

...

This seems pretty late-stage...

...I... don't know.

From a girl's perspec-tive...

...you can't really defend yourself against a gaze like that...

And so, like that...

I—

"I" was burned ...

...and died many times over.

And between the time I was reborn and burned once more...

I forcefully drained the Tyrannical Tiger's energy...

...re-stored myself with that pow-er—and died again.

...my life was flashing before my eyes in a dream.

Nyow that's what I call...

...a down-and-dirty catfight.

I caused so much trou-ble...

...for the Afflicting Cat.

So pretty...

I guess Araragi...

...must always get views of her sleeping face all to himself.

It's no fair.

My jealousy started to point itself at Araragi instead.

And as I started thinking about these adult matters.

No, maybe not.

I guess they haven't even gone on a date yet, have they.

Good morning, Miss Hane-kawa.

I felt my heart race—when I saw her face in peaceful slumber.

And only now did I realize why that was.

Good morning, Miss Senjo-gahara.

...was a first for me.

Because this experience—of waking up to someone other than a cleaning robot nearby...

I'm sorry, can you push me a bit?

Sure.

YOU'RE SO FLEXI-BLE!

WAIT, WHOA!

...She's just like Araragi when it comes to making remarks like that...

Sorry, I mean, Miss Hane-kawa.

I hope you can do the same again for me tonight, Miss Down Comforter.

I haven't been able to sleep that well in a long time...

Why is your body so flexible?

There's no resistance at all!

Whoa!

What? You don't seem to be straining, though.

I get a real kick out of feeling everything inside my body creaking and straining.

And I mean that in a mas-ochistic way.

If you press on my breasts, you'll find they're even more pliable.

...I think I've had enough of that...

SKRIIISH

くにゃあ・・・

I do all sorts of things, too, you know.

How rude! You know no one has a body like that.

I'm jealous of you, Miss Hanekawa. You've got the kind of body that turns whatever you eat straight into chest.

I've got the kind of body that turns anything I eat straight into flesh.

... That's not what I mean.

Oh? Like stretches that make your breasts grow?

That's what she claimed, and so...

I run every morning before breakfast.

...to repay her for letting me freeload, I decided to make breakfast while she was out doing that.

I cook for myself every day, believe it or not.

TIME TO GIVE THIS EVERY-THING I'VE GOT!

...

Munch ...

Munch ...

...

Mmh...

Mmh ...?

There's... nothing particularly off about this.

Neither the fried eggs nor the sausages are burned ...

Miss Hanekawa.

Do you know what dressing is?

Please, go ahead.

May I ask you several questions ?

Organic
BALSAMICO DRESSING
バルサミコドレッシング

That ← stuff people sometimes put on salads, right?

Well, of course I do...

TWITCH

...

Answer 1: Oh, I've heard of those people before. Yes, apparently, some people put things on fried eggs.

Answer 2: I don't.

Answer 3: I don't.

Answer 4: What?

Answer 5: What?!

I take mine black, thank you.

Question 1: Do you put Worcester-shire sauce on eggs, or do you use soy sauce?

Question 2: Do you put soy sauce on sushi?

Question 3: Do you dip your tempura in sauce?

Question 4: Do you put sugar in your yogurt?

Question 5: Do you use ketchup to write on your Salisbury steaks and omelets over rice?

How many sugar cubes do you take with your after-meal coffee?

This meal— it's perfect in appear-ance.

The way everything has been cut and cooked is on par with the work of a professional.

But...

...

There's— no flavor.

The cooking reveals the cook—

or so they say, but...

Tell me, Miss Hane-kawa.

Do you really... love Araragi?

Hm?

Are you truly able to say once more—

that you love Araragi?

Isn't it just as important to have things you hate as it is to have things you love?

I have a bad habit of smiling whenever I'm unable to comprehend something.

Hm?

Um...

We were— talking about food, weren't we...?

...Miss Hanekawa.

It's not as though you have an impaired sense of taste, either.

KLINK

You're like the opposite of a picky eater, aren't you.

Just as long as it fills your stomach, just as long as it provides you with nutrition—that kind of thing, perhaps?

It's not as though you're savoring the taste of the ingredients as they are— it might be an exaggeration, but I'd say you'd be *fine with anything.*

Garekissa G COFFEE

You gave your impression on how things tasted when we had tea at a café, or when you ate my lunch at school.

Mmm, garlic! Yummy! ♡

Looks tasty♡

Really?

Want some?

...doesn't food taste good even if it has no flavor?

What...? But...

Sorry. If I'm being honest, I don't really understand...

...what you're trying to say to me.

I can eat fried eggs *all the same*, even if they do have Worcestershire sauce, soy sauce, or pepper on them.

I think salad tastes *just as good* whether there's dressing on it or not.

...Hm?

Flavor isn't some-thing I need in the first pla...

It's all the same whether or not it has flavor.

Dish Soap

HAND SOAP

This tastes better.

Thank you. Then I'll have it once I'm finished with this water... I wouldn't want it to go to waste.

was a first for me.

Maybe this, too,

I felt— a little uncomfortable with the words I was saying.

...

...I started to understand what Miss Senjogahara was saying.

Finally— vaguely...

...then what does it mean— for you to like something?

If you like every-thing the same—

if it's all the same to you...

...

I may not be someone special the way you are, but... I can become someone's someone special.

Personally speaking,

I'm working hard to make sure Araragi always loves me.

...when I like someone.

That's what it means ...

Isn't it something that requires active effort?

Isn't the feeling we call love a very conscious thing from the start?

But Araragi doesn't see the fact that he saved me as anything special.

Maybe I shouldn't be saying this as someone he saved.

HE'S BASICALLY BEEN PICKING UP A NEW GIRL ON A NEARLY DAILY BASIS!

I KNOW HE'S GOT TONS OF EPISODES WE DON'T KNOW ABOUT!

...Why so many people?

シュタッ FWIISHT

ドゴ

スト FWP

トニッ THMP

BOOM

ワーワー

AND WE HAVE TWO POWERFUL YET HIDDEN OPPONENTS IN THOSE TWO LITTLE SISTERS WHO ARE CLOSE TO HIM!

...it would make my obsession with my father look completely normal.

If you were to measure the level of respect those two have for their big brother...

There's definitely something weird about them as siblings, right?!

So you feel that way too, Miss Senjoga-hara?!

Oh!

I learned that—from seeing my parents.

It's because I know there's no such thing as an unbreakable bond.

But in any case. I...feel like I could very well become part of that swarm of others at any moment.

Which is why—I never neglect to *season* myself.

It's a question of just how much worth I have as a raw ingredient.

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Crow Pharmacy
SACHI
Real Estate
SPLOOSH

Do you understand, Tyrannical Tiger?!

That's the reason!

FZZZSHH

That's why!

SPLOOSH

My past self—must not have done that.

that must mean you need to work far, far harder to make someone stay in love with you.

If it's just like Mayoi said—if it takes effort to stay in love,

I asked—
my
tyrannical
past.

How
fool-
ish.

I asked
the
Tyran-
nical
Tiger.

I was able to do
it for a whole
month—hold it
all back.

Tell me nyow,
why was that?!

I faced
me
before
I met
Araragi.

I faced
myself...

This...
ridiculous
amount of
energy you
have.

It's...the
power of our
myaster's
jealousy,
isn't it?

...love Miss Senjogahara just that much.

Isn't it?

It's because I...

That's exactly why...you're the one who should be—

more... you know... more...

...I mean... Well, that's why...

It's... frus- trating.

I'm sorry.

I might be the one who's the real cat, prowling around and snatching him away...

I'm sorry.

...and ate all the food I made her.

Miss Senjoga-hara said this...

I know...

I'm not crying because the food doesn't taste good.

I do feel jealous of her.

I do feel down when she says something harsh to me.

Right now.

But greater than any of that...are my feelings of love.

I want to be that someone special to this girl who cried for me.

I love Miss Senjogahara.

I desire it from the bottom of my heart.

If you understand that, get back inside our myaster already, you worthless tiger!

Enough.

BAM

RIP

RIP

RIP

VWOOM

BWAP

THWAP

PWAP

Hm.

And ?

What of it?

GA-KLANG

Ghrrgh!

Continued in Volume 21

Next Volume Preview

BAKEMONOGATARI 21

Miss Senjo-gahara! Ruuun!
Hanekawa discovers her heart and her feelings.
Whether it's her repressed emotions or past...
...she gives everything she has to resolve it all.
I guess he would be late ...
But the swollen Tyrannical Tiger...
...is just too powerful.
Tsubasa Cat reaches the brink.

COMING APRIL 2024!

BAKEMONOGATARI (manga) 20

Kodansha Digital Edition

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First published in Japan in 2023 by Kodansha Ltd., Tokyo.
Electronic publishing rights for this English edition arranged through Kodansha Ltd., Tokyo.

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English digital edition published by Kodansha USA Publishing, LLC, New York.

ISBN: 9798889333494

Digital Edition: 1.0.0

Translation: Ko Ransom
Editing: Ajani Oloye
Production: Grace Lu
Pei Ann Yeap
Hiroko Mizuno
Ripping: 1r0n

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